question has accordingly been of late receiving very great and deserving attention. An impetus was given to the work when Dr. Gillson, a well known American geologist and an Indian Professor undertook to inspect the work and prescribed the lines on which the work should be carried on. A provision of Rs 21,200 has been included in the budget and investigation in the direction will be carried on in four places in Neyyattinkara Taluk and Vattiyurkavu in Trivandrum. We have already obtained the assurance that limestone available in our State will be enough to cater to the cement requirements of our State for many years to come.

## Socio-economic measures.

52. To secure the contentment of the masses, apart from the socio-economic measures intended primarily for the upliftment of the depressed and the distressed, Government are endeavouring in various other directions. I shall take up the socio-economic measures first.

53. *Uplift of backward communities.* A separate department for the uplift of backward communities is functioning in the State for the past 15 years and has been doing useful work. An amount of Rs 35,000 is earmarked for this department for this year over and above the usual provision of Rs 7,500. The activities include, assignment of land for house sites and cultivation, collective acquisition of raw materials for buildings, educational concessions in schools and colleges, sinking wells in Harijan colonies and putting up of common buildings for social and religious congregations of these people.

54. *Co-operation.* Extension of co-operative facilities is another form which this form of uplift takes.

Provision has been included in the budget for the Co-operative department as usual for development of non-official co-operative efforts by issue of loans and grants to co-operative institutions. Provision has also been made for giving loans to deserving societies. Non-credit amenities are given an impetus by way of grants with a view to developing co-operative mentality. An amount of Rs 500 has also been earmarked for societies engaged in the development of cottage industries for advertisement and propaganda.

## Relief of distress.

55. In view of the present condition of factory labour and their poverty and unemployment, Government propose to set apart a sum of Rs 5 lakhs from out of their revenue surplus to be credited to a fund which would bear the title "Distress Relief Fund." The amount at credit will be available

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